

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2009
CITY HALL
22710 E. COUNTRY VISTA DRIVE
7:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION

Given by Council Member Crump

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Van Orman, City Council, and Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Van Orman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Jenkins
Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs (absent)
Council Members Owens
Council Member Crump
Council Member Schuler
Council Member Olander (absent)
Council Member Langford

Doug Smith, Director of Comm. Dev.
Ann Swenson, Executive Assistant
Brian Asmus, Chief of Police
Sean Boutz, City Attorney

Council Member Crump moved to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs and Council Member Olander, seconded by Council Member Owens. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Langford asked to add Agenda Item C under Workshop Discussions to discuss emergency management operations. Council Member Crump moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Langford. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City Council Meeting Minutes from December 16th, have been postponed until the next City Council Meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Judy McGrady, 1809 N. Aladdin, Liberty Lake. Ms. McGrady said she is very pleased and grateful for how prompt the City crews come and constantly snowplow her street. Mayor Van Orman said that she would pass her comments on to Mr. Rich Peplinski and his crew, agreeing that they have done a great job this year.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Crump provided a Finance Committee report. The Committee reviewed vouchers and held discussions about updating financial policies and procedures this year, developing a policy for use of Council Chambers, internal security of City Hall after hours and future planning, waste management, franchise agreements, and snow removal. He thanked the City staff and Peplinski for their efforts with snow removal and shared that the sheriff said Liberty Lake streets were the best in the County.

Council Member Crump commented on recent a article in the *Splash* regarding the City spending too much time on small matters, the Council having its own agenda; not wanting what the community wants, and very poor planning and budgeting. He argued that such inferences are not taken lightly and made a public statement, saying "If you have concerns about any of the issues, it would be really nice to come and talk, and I would invite anyone to talk to us in Citizen Comments". He said whether or not he agrees or disagrees with the comments, he appreciates getting them. He defended the City, however, regarding the budget as well as planning, and challenged people to come join in discussions and get involved with their community government.

STAFF AND AGENCY REPORTS

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY REPORT

Pamela Mogen, Library Director, gave a brief report. The library did very well in comparison to last year with patron visits, total cards, and circulation. She said activities have been intermittent because of the Christmas holiday. She noted three book clubs that have been started. She said staff is preparing for the recently-approved Northwest Washington Anytime Library Consortium, with a projected go-live date the first week in February. Mayor Van Orman commented she had an opportunity to walk through the new building and reported it was coming along very nicely.

CITY STAFF

Doug Smith, Community Development Director, reported that the City's priority for the upcoming days is road safety. He commended the citizens for their part in helping their neighbors with cleaning the sidewalks and thanked them for pitching in. He reiterated Rich Peplinski and his crew have done a fantastic job, and noted that Liberty Lake is one of the few jurisdictions in the County that has not had to declare a State of Emergency. He reported the new facility is coming along, but is a bit behind schedule, with an anticipated move sometime in February. He said even though construction is a

bit behind schedule, the project is still under budget. He invited the Council to visit the City's website, and said staff has done a fantastic job posting current information for the public. He also said the final year-end financial report for 2008 should be distributed before the next City Council meeting for members to review.

Council Member Jenkins asked for an update on what has been spent so far from the 2009 plowing budget. Mr. Smith estimated \$12,000 has been spent so far from the \$70,000 budget.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Since Planning Commissioner Paul was absent, Amanda Tainio, Planning & Building Services Manager, provided a brief run down for the City Council. She said the Commission has been busy at work on the River District's Specific Area Plan overlay and are considering holding special meetings on the fourth Wednesdays of January and February to expedite that review. She said the next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14th.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Chief Brian Asmus gave a brief report on public safety. He talked about the weather conditions and briefings. He also thanked Rich Peplinski and the City crew for doing such a great job on trail systems, roadways, and sidewalks, and thanked the citizens for helping each other. He discussed safety precautions for children going back to school and asked for help with clearing out fire hydrant areas. He said Crime Check is now operational and encouraged residents to use it as an alternative option to 9-1-1 for non-emergencies. He reported that due to the weather there has been an increase in traffic accidents in December. He provided a report on year-end statistics and said details will be available in the annual report in March. Chief Asmus also provided a brief update on the Department's LEXIPOL policy.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Spokane Valley Fire Department's Deputy Chief, Larry Rider, reviewed the packet of information that he provided to the City Council regarding ICS (Incident Command System) and MIST (Major Incident Support Team). He reported the Department responded to 348 incidents in 2008, and the majority of the calls were medically related. He then talked about the upcoming ballot for the 2010 – 2012 Special Levy and how 52% of the SVFD's budget funding in 2010 will come from the Special Levy. He talked about costs of services and conservative budget estimates. He said it has been a very busy three weeks with the massive amounts of snowfall and that the Department has been doing damage control.

SEWER AND WATER DISTRICT

Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District's Commissioner, Steve Skipworth, said the District is currently working on its 2009 budget. He reported the water division is looking really good and the sewer division is "just holding its own". He said a lot of money has

been put into the new plant. He talked about the upcoming Spokane River Forum January 22-23 to discuss the river and aquifer.

Councilwoman Owens then apologized for "going out of order", but mentioned the recent passing of Lewis Griffin and asked for a moment of silence in his honor. She said several members attended his memorial service and acknowledged that Mr. Griffin helped a great deal in getting the City through the first stages of incorporation. Mayor Van Orman commented that she believes Liberty Lake is set up better than most cities that have been in duration for 100 years thanks to "Griff". She asked that everyone pause and take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Griffin, and a moment of silence was observed in his honor.

ACTION ITEMS

Council Member Crump moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which included vouchers totaling \$293,323.35, seconded by Council Member Jenkins. Motion passed unanimously.

Check number sequences were 10605 through 10638
Payroll check sequences were 5106 through 5167

Council Member Crump moved to accept the Amendments of the GMA Joint Planning Interlocal Agreement, seconded by Council Member Langford.

Mr. Smith then gave a brief overview of the Interlocal Agreement, stating the general purpose of the Agreement is to set the parameters in which public jurisdictions collaborate and coordinate their regional planning efforts. He indicated that the City Council needs to ratify for the City of Liberty Lake "to have a seat at the table".

After no further discussion, Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Van Orman then welcomed Municipal Library Board applicant, Mr. John Loucks, to Liberty Lake and invited him to share some of his background with the City Council. Mr. Loucks comes to Liberty Lake from Liberal, KS where he taught for several years and is now retired. He served on the Liberal Memorial Library Board in Kansas for several years and acted as Chairman four of those years.

Council Member Owens moved to confirm John Loucks as a member of City of Liberty Lake Municipal Library Board, seconded by Council Member Crump. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Van Orman called for a brief recess at 8:20 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 8:33 p.m.

City Attorney, Sean Boutz, discussed procedural issues regarding the closed public hearing for BSP 41-94 Administrative Interpretation Appeal. He said the decision to be determined by the City Council is to either accept or reject the Hearings Examiner's Recommendation to Uphold the Director's Administrative Interpretation. He said should

the Council decide to reject the Recommendation, a basis and determination of findings would be necessary. Amanda Tainio, Planning & Building Services Manager, then provided a brief overview of BSP 41-95.

Mayor Van Orman called the closed public hearing to order at 8:37 p.m. A brief discussion was held amongst City Council members regarding the Appeal document and Mayor Van Orman closed the public hearing at 8:45 p.m.

Council Member Owens moved to accept the Hearing Examiner's Recommendation to Uphold the Director's Administrative Interpretation on BSP 41-95 (Appeal File AP-08-0002), seconded by Council Member Schuler.

Council Member Crump asked if there was a monetary cost to reapply. Mr. Smith said there is an application fee for the applicant.

Motion passed unanimously. Councilman Langford thanked staff for the way the information was put together, stating that it was very easy to understand.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

Ann Swenson, Executive Assistant, read Ordinance No. 173 into the record, amending the City Comprehensive Plan and City Development Code for 2008.

Amanda Tainio, Planning & Building Services Manager, provided a summary of the proposed 2008 City Comprehensive Plan and Development Codes. She then outlined the Planning Commission's recommendations. Ms. Tainio addressed Councilman Crump's previous request to outline some topics that needed dealt with in more detail, including two comprehensive plan amendments pertinent to parks and land divisions.

Mayor Van Orman suggested the Community Development Committee take another look at the recommendations and bring back its recommendations for the rest of the City Council by the next meeting.

WORKSHOP/DISCUSSIONS

Standing Committees for 2009

Council Members reviewed and discussed City Council Standing Committee Assignments. It was determined Council Member Schuler would switch her position with Councilman Langford on the Community Development Committee and that further discussions would be held with absent members to determine if any other changes would be made.

Liberty Lake Public Safety Building Security Bid Tab

Police Chief Brian Asmus said the bid tab is for the purpose of providing security for the Public Safety building, which was not initially included in the original bid documents that went out to contractors. He then reviewed vendor bids for safety features, including garage door openers, fencing, an automatic exterior gate, and access control system.

He said the grand total, if awarded to the low bid in each category, is \$41,299.66 and that this amount would remain within the parameters of the original allocation of \$675,000 for the new facility.

Emergency Management

Councilman Langford reported on his recent attendance at an emergency management meeting for Spokane County. He said the emphasis of the meeting was the need to plan for emergencies. He said we need to start thinking about the larger picture for our City regarding staging, shelters, generators, and the Police Department and City Hall. He urged that a comprehensive plan needs to be established by the City Council that will work for City and its residents.

Spokane Valley Fire Department Deputy Chief Rider then introduced Captain Jeff Bordwell, who spoke about the Spokane County Fire Resource Plan. Captain Bordwell provided examples of the plan's efficacy and talked about Law Enforcement / EMS Incident Action Plans for Liberty Lake. Deputy Chief Rider then talked about sharing of community resources and involvement for all areas, and expressed an interest in participating at our Public Safety Committee meetings.

Chief Asmus added that the City of Liberty Lake does participate in Spokane County's Emergency Management Plan and said the Plan is available online if anyone would like to review it. He shared an incident that happened, and affirmed the plan does work.

UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Cindy Esch, 1817 N. Aladdin Road, Liberty Lake. Ms. Esch is a member of the Community Park Planning Committee. She inquired when Ordinance No. 173 will be sent back to the Community Development Committee for their recommendations to the City Council and asked if the meeting is open to the public. Community Development Committee Member, Councilman Jenkins, responded the public is welcome to attend and he will email her to let her know when the meeting will be held.

She expressed her appreciation for the due diligence that the Community Development Committee, Community Park Planning Committee, the Planning Commission, City Council, and Liberty Lake citizens who participated in the survey have undertaken in making the recommendations regarding Ordinance No. 173, and strongly recommended that the Community Development Committee follow along with the Planning Commission's recommendations because of all of the due diligence that was put into this effort.

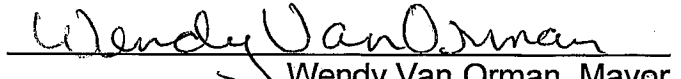
She also directed a comment towards Councilman Crump, stating that she supports him and all members of the Council. She said, "You work very, very hard, and I was reading the report card in the *Splash* and I was disappointed by what the citizens said". She acknowledged that it is hard to get citizens to turn out and it would be nice if more


citizens would participate. She thanked everyone for their hard work in 2008, as well as for the work that will be done on behalf of the citizens in 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

These minutes are approved on January 20, 2009


Wendy Van Orman, Mayor
City of Liberty Lake


Notes and Transcription by Ann Swenson, Executive Assistant. This Council meeting was also audio taped. Anyone desiring to listen to the recording may contact the City Clerk